



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
Patent and Trademark Office

**NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE AND ISSUE FEE DUE**

MM91/0828

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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	TOTAL CLAIMS	EXAMINER AND GROUP ART UNIT	DATE MAILED
08/902,849	07/30/97	031	REICHARD, D	2831 08/28/00
First Named Applicant	MALTBY,	35 USC 154(b) term ext. = 0 Days.		

TITLE OF INVENTION RECEPTACLE-MOUNTED COVER PLATE

ATTY'S DOCKET NO.	CLASS-SUBCLASS	BATCH NO.	APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	FEE DUE	DATE DUE
2	300-023	174-066.000	R29	UTILITY	YES \$605.00	11/28/00

**THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.**

**THE ISSUE FEE MUST BE PAID WITHIN THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.**

**HOW TO RESPOND TO THIS NOTICE:**

**I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.**

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

- A. If the status is changed, pay twice the amount of the FEE DUE shown above and notify the Patent and Trademark Office of the change in status, or
- B. If the status is the same, pay the FEE DUE shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

- A. Pay FEE DUE shown above, or
- B. File verified statement of Small Entity Status before, or with, payment of 1/2 the FEE DUE shown above.

**II. Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) with your ISSUE FEE. Even if the ISSUE FEE has already been paid by charge to deposit account, Part B Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and returned. If you are charging the ISSUE FEE to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B-Issue Fee Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted.**

**III. All communications regarding this application must give application number and batch number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Box ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.**

**IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.**

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**  
**Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS  
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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08/902,849      07/30/97      MALTBY

E      300-023

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EXAMINER

REICHARD, D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2831

DATE MAILED:

08/28/00

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**

# Notice of Allowability

Application No.

08/902,849

Applicant(s)

Maltby et al.

Examiner

Dean Reichard

Group Art Unit

2831



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to preliminary amendment "B" filed March 30, 2000.

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are claims 1, 3-11, 22, 24-34, and 36-44.

☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE THREE MONTHS FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 2.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

## Attachment(s)

☒ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

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### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The primary reasons for the allowance of claims 1 and 3-11 are the inclusion therein, in combination as claimed, of the limitations of the front surface of the cover plate containing a single line extending substantially in a rectangle around the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture, the line comprising an indented line indented relative to the remainder of the front surface, the front surface otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures. These limitations were found in claims 1 and 3-11 and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

The primary reasons for the allowance of claims 22, 24-33, 34, and 36-44 are the inclusion therein, in combination as claimed, of the limitations of the front surface of the cover plate containing a first region substantially rectangular in shape disposed about and including all the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture and a second region which contains the portion of the front surface other than the first region, the first region being elevated outwardly relative to the second region, the front surface having a discontinuity between the first and second regions, the first region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any other apertures, and the second region otherwise being continuous, having uniform topography, and being free of any apertures. These limitations were found in claims 22, 24-33,

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34, and 36-44 and are neither disclosed nor taught by the prior art of record, alone or in combination.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 4,631,354 to Boteler is cited to show a cover plate containing a single indented line extending substantially in a rectangle around the blade apertures and the at least one securing aperture. However, Boteler lacks the front surface of the cover plate otherwise being continuous.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dean Reichard whose telephone number is (703) 308-3682. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesdays-Fridays from 7:30am to 5:00pm, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiners's supervisor, Kristine Kincaid, can be reached on (703) 308-0640. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 305-3431.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

*DR 8-25-2000*

Reichard:dar  
August 25, 2000

*Dean A. Reichard 8-25-2000*

Dean A. Reichard  
Primary Examiner